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## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

A method of determining at least one candidate patch for human faces in a color graphic image, comprising:

determining a first area wherein a color gradient has a low value;

determining a second area wherein an intensity value has a high value;

performing a logical AND on said first area and said second area to

create a third area; and

selecting portions of said third area with suitable hue saturation to form

said at least one candidate patch.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said first area uses a first threshold value comparison.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said first threshold value is 2 determined by normalization.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said second area 2 uses a second threshold value comparison.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said second threshold is determined by normalization.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising eroding said third area.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said eroding is morphological.

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first threshold.

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1	8.	The method of claim 1, further comprising fitting an ellipse to one	
2	of said at least one candidate patch.		
1	9.	The method of claim 8, further comprising determining if said	
2	ellipse is a	bad fit to said one of said at least one candidate patch.	
1	10.	The method of claim 9, further processing said one of said at least	
2	one candidate patch when said ellipse is a bad fit.		
1	11.	The method of claim 10, further comprising determining if said one	
2	of said at l	east one candidate patch is too smooth.	
	/		
1	<b>y</b> 2.	A system configured to determine at least one location of a	
2	hum	an face in a color graphic image, comprising:	
3 ·	a col	or gradient map configured to indicate true where a color gradient	
4		has a low value;	
5	an ir	ntensity map configured to indicate true where an intensity value has	
6		a high value;	
7	a cor	mbined map configured to indicate true where said color gradient	
8		map is true and said intensity map is true; and	
9	at lea	ast one candidate patch selected from said combined map, wherein	
10		said candidate patches each have suitable hue saturation.	
1	13.	The system of claim 12, wherein said color gradient map includes a	

too smooth.

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The system of claim 13, wherein said first threshold is determined 1 14. 2 by normalization. The system of claim 12, wherein said intensity map includes a 1 15. 2 second threshold. The system of claim \15, wherein said second threshold is 1 16. 2 determined by normalization. 1 17. The system of claim 12, wherein said combined map includes an 2 eroded boundary. The system of claim 17, wherein said boundary is morphologically 1 18. 2 eroded. 19. The system of claim 12, further comprising an ellipse fitted to said 1 2 at least one candidate patch. The system of claim 19, wherein said ellipse includes a degree of fit 1 20. 2 measure. The system of claim 20/ wherein said at lease one candidate patch 1 21. 2 is marked for further processing when said degree of fit is bad. The system of claim 21, further comprising a candidate patch 22. 1 examiner configured to determine whether said at least one candidate patch is 2

23. A machine-read	dable medium having stored thereon instructions for		
processing elements, which when executed by said processing elements			
perform the following:			
determining a first area wherein a color gradient has a low value;			
determining a second	d area wherein an intensity value has a high value;		
performing a logical	AND on said first area and said second area to		
create a third	area; and		
selecting portions of	said third area with suitable hue saturation to form		
at least one candidat	e patch.		